

The Unspoken Reality in the Contested Arena of Cultural and  
Policy Barriers to the Development of Sport for Athletes with  
a Disability: Casey Martin and the PGA

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# Outline

- Overview of Sport for Athletes with a Disability
- Barriers
- Unspoken Reality
- Breaking Down Barriers

# Overview - Sport for Athletes with a Disability

- Disability Specific Opportunities
  - Paralympic Sport - Paralympic Games
  - Deaf Sport - Deaf World Games

# Overview - Sport for Athletes with a Disability (cont'd)

- Mainstream opportunities
  - Recreational
  - Professional (Casey Martin)

# Barriers to Development of Sport for Athletes with Disabilities: Disability Sport

- Organized by disability and not sport
- Classification of disability
- Lack of funding
- Not enough public awareness
- Lack of media coverage
- Too few trained coaches
- Lack of sponsorship support
- No legal mandate
- No recognition of rule changes
- Not understood as elite athletes
- Body Difference
- Inadequate facilities

# Barriers to Development of Sport for Athletes with Disabilities: Recreational

- Athletes with disabilities unable to compete on par with able-bodied athletes
- No adaptations to rules or traditions
- Fear of negative attitudes by athletes without disabilities
- No legal mandate
- Body difference

# Barriers to Development of Sport for Athletes with Disabilities: Professional

- Athletes with disabilities unable to compete on par with able-bodied athletes
- No adaptations to rules or traditions
- Fear of negative attitudes by athletes without disabilities
- No legal mandate
- Body difference

# Unspoken Reality: Disability Sport

- Needs of people with disabilities are inferior
- Fear of people with disabilities taking over resources
- Competitive sport is only for individuals with whole/complete bodies
- People with disabilities are not of sound mind

# Unspoken Reality: Recreational

- Competitive sport is only for individuals with whole/complete bodies
- Fear of people with disabilities taking over sport
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# Unspoken Reality: Professional

- Competitive sport is only for individuals with whole/complete bodies
- Fear of people with disabilities taking over sport
- People with disabilities are not of sound mind

# Breaking Barriers - Disability Sport

- Different disciplines of a sport can be recognized as legitimate
- Disability sport can bring new resources
- - Athletes with disabilities compete at best of their ability - no different from what able-bodied athletes do -

# Breaking Barriers - Recreational

- Athletes of varying abilities compete in recreational sport -- athletes with disabilities should be encouraged, when appropriate, just the same
- Education and Training
- Rules can in fact be changed without infringing on the "nature" of the sport

# Breaking Barriers - Professional

- Rules can in fact be changed without infringing on the true "nature" of the sport  
–Casey Martin

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